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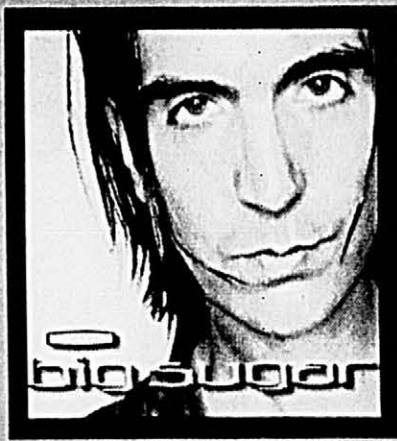


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# Voting Rights In Peril?

*An anonymous letter circulates from a student angered by a SSMU Senate reform proposal*

BY JON BRICKER

A move by the SSMU to strip students of voting powers in Senate elections would mark a brash effort at centralizing power and would further represent a slap in the face of democracy, according to a confidential letter circulated last week.

The anonymous letter, circulated to Student governors and campus media, detailed a sentiment that a provision being considered by SSMU's University Affairs committee was misdirected and should be heeded by students as ill-willed. The proposal calls for reforms to the student Senate Caucus, including one to make the position SSMU-appointed, and no longer elected by students within each faculty.

"The SSMU intends to take over the appointment of students' representatives to the university senate in order to have complete control over them and their views," said the letter.

None of the letter's recipients knew who the letter originated from and they were generally surprised by the proposal which remains in its preliminary discussion stages. But student reps shared sentiments with the letter, and were wary of what the reforms could mean.

But SSMU's VP University Affairs, Xavier Van Chau, defended his reform push, saying that the change to an appointment process would unite and strengthen the student voice to the Senate - McGill's top academic authority body.

"We want to confront the administration with a professional look, as a unified front," Van Chau said.

While Arts Senator Jeff Feiner agreed with the need for change in the Caucus

and saw Van Chau's efforts as aimed in the right direction, he criticized the move from an elected Caucus.

"How can you truly feel that you represent that constituency if they did not put you there?"

Those angered, however, point out that the proposed "unified" voice would be monopolized by SSMU while other student groups would be silenced.

"This new provision (allowing for arbitrary nomination of Senators by the SSMU executives) will be buried, in the hope that no one will notice. A great democratic move for our new executive," said the letter, responding to the proposal that would see faculty associations nominating Senate candidates, with SSMU's University Affairs Committee interviewing candidates and

"They're essentially our seats but they've become important positions within Faculty Associations as well," he said, noting that the thirteen Senate seats were originally given to the student society in the 70's and that eleven of the seats were later given out to the faculty associations.

Van Chau said that presently, the Caucus invites students seeking decoration in their final years. "Being a Senator is a real job," he said. "Right now, there's a lack of communication between the individuals. At most levels, students sit representing the student body by representing themselves."

The unified voice agenda which Van Chau has yet to present to SSMU also called for the establishment of a new Academic Research Officer position to coordinate student representation on various McGill committees and assigning of specific responsibilities to each of the thirteen Senators. The proposed structure, he said, would make it easier for the Caucus to make their cases on academic issues such as class sizes and the impersonality of studying at a research-intensive university like McGill.

Feiner believed that course evaluations should be added to the list of issues which a revamped Caucus could address. "An issue like that could be pushed a lot more forcefully," he said.

The University Affairs Committee will meet with the faculty associations and Senate Caucus in the coming weeks, and the proposal should come before the SSMU in the next few weeks.

“How can you truly feel that you represent that constituency if they did not put you there?”

appointing the student body's Senate reps. "I tend to forget these issues of power and prestige. I'm not in it for politics, I'm in it for the students," said Van Chau. "But it's really not contentious at all."

"There would be no change in the spheres of influence between the Faculty Association and the SSMU.... My only concern is taking away the direct democracy from students," he added.

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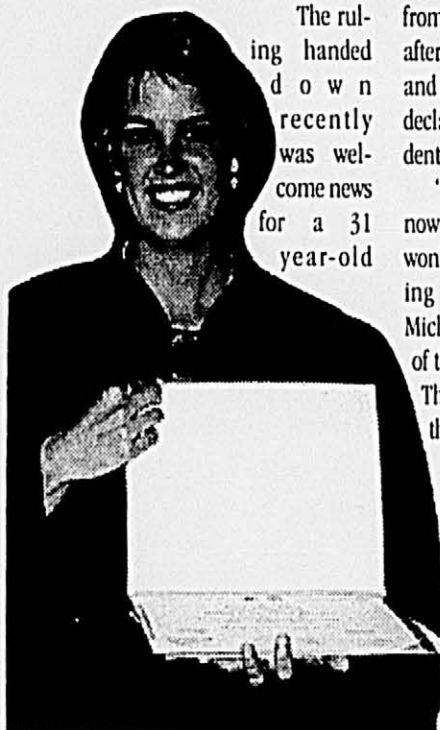


# Judge Strikes Down Controversial Student Loan Law

*Student groups hope the Newfoundland ruling will pave the way for students seeking bankruptcy claims*

BY JON BRICKER

New federal student bankruptcy laws are discriminatory and smack of denied Charter equality rights, said a Newfoundland Supreme Court Judge last week in a ruling that stirs new hope for the thousands whose loan debt loads have become unmanageable.



The ruling handed down recently was welcome news for a 31-year-old

unemployed teacher who challenged the bankruptcy law's validity under the equality provision of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Canada's highest legislative authority. The bankruptcy law, introduced as one of a number of student loan reform initiatives in the 1998 federal budget, prevented students from declaring bankruptcy for ten years after graduation, while the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act lets individuals declare after just two years on non-student loans.

"The law is discriminatory and it is now clear that the federal government won't solve the debt crisis by criminalizing student loan borrowers," said Michael Conlon, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students. The CFS has been fighting the law for the last year and a half.

The law, Conlon says, clearly singles out young people and students, already being hit hard by skyrocketing tuition and often crippling debt loads, by making it harder for them than for the rest of the public to relieve their debt crises. "It's a legal precedence that discrim-

inates against one segment of society," he said.

But the government defended the legislation, citing the earning potential of post-secondary grads, and a high default rate on student loans. "We were having problems with the integrity of the program," said Human Resources and Development Spokesperson James Van Raely.

"We invested a great deal of money in the '98 budget. We had to make sure the money was being used as it was intended, so the money would be there in the future," he said, adding that the legislation also considered the earning potential that he says comes with a post-secondary degree.

But according to recent statistics, the average debt load for a Canadian undergraduate today is \$25,000, with about one million Canadians currently paying off their student loans. As of 1996, the last year the legislation gave students full rights to declare bankruptcy, the average salary for students declaring bankruptcy was only \$11,000.

Connie Velda Pilgrim, the Happy Valley, Goose Bay native who graduated

\$36,567 in debt was among the million Canadians struggling with her debt before the ruling.

In his ruling, Supreme Court Justice T. Alex Hickman, found in favour of Velda Pilgrim saying, "The possibility of (Pilgrim) being in a position at a future date to redeem her indebtedness to the crown, in whole or in part, is speculative and does not provide a realistic basis for accepting the Crown's submission."

Hickman sided with Velda Pilgrim's claim that the federal law infringed on Section 15f of the Charter which guarantees Canadians equality under the law and freedom from discrimination based on age, gender, colour, ethnicity, and disability.

"It's important because the judgement defies the federal legislation," said Conlon. "The federal government has to be concerned about our Charter challenge," he added.

The government however, insisted that the legislation must be seen within the broader scope of the other initiatives that came with last year's budget. "It's important to place the measure in the context of a number of other meas-

ures," said a Finance Ministry spokesperson Jean-Michel Catta, referring to new tax credits and interest and debt relief measures, as well as the Liberals' much-touted multi-billion dollar Millennium Fund.

CFS meanwhile has added complaints with Millennium Fund to its campaign as well though, calling it narrow in its scope, and inaccessible to the majority of students. The federation has also made its own effort at setting legal precedent on the bankruptcy issue.

Last winter, CFS found a student willing to take the government to task in Annick Chénier, a St. Paul University graduate now living in Ottawa. Chénier, who challenged the federal government before the courts, was seeking to rid herself of a \$63,000 debt that she called unmanageable with monthly payments gobbling up about a third of her income.

And Conlon hopes her case will make use of the precedent set in Newfoundland last week. "The judge essentially struck down the legislation," he said, speaking to new-found optimism for further legislation reform.

## Free Tuition, Baby!

*Saskatchewan Premier attempts to woo the student voters with wild promise*

BY DAVID PODGORSKI

After nearly a decade of education cuts and increased fees, students in Saskatchewan are finally being promised a major break from the provincial New Democratic Party.

NDP leader Roy Romanow has offered students a generous bursary in the form of a free year of tuition for all first year students in Saskatchewan - a promise that has set him apart from other provincial governments in

Canada.

The NDP plans to make this a yearly budget expense of \$20 million, with the goal of keeping students in the province. The party is also looking to extend the program to all students.

"We believe that producing public dollars is a good initiative," said Deb Young, NDP researcher, stressing the importance of post-secondary education. "It's one of the only ways of producing a well-trained

workforce. Grade twelve isn't enough anymore." Saskatchewan undergraduates are also looking at the bursary favourably. "It's a positive thing, because it increases accessibility... it makes sense for the province's students," said Sean McEachern, President of the University of Regina Students Association. However, he is also concerned it is currently open only to new matriculants.

While Young and McEachern are confident in the idea, others are more critical of a blanket offer without distinguishing where the money should be allocated. The Saskatchewan Party has made a point of being one of the most vocal opponents of what they view as nothing more than a way of getting votes.

"Help the students when they finish their education. Help them find jobs," explained Paul Crozier of the Saskatchewan Party campaign. Crozier believes that the most effective way of helping students is giving breaks on student

loans and bursaries. He also believes the NDP will live to regret making this promise



Romanow

as they have no means of funding it.

"All we get from them is generalities... they could chop it off the [universities'] operating budget," he argued. "They're dropping this issue like a hot potato."

The NDP is optimistic on its promises, however. Their election platform also includes \$1 000 dollars in tax cuts to all Saskatchewan residents, the hiring of 500 more health-care providers and 200 more police officers province-wide, and a balanced budget.

"This is all accounted for through projected economic growth," Young said.

Finding funding may be a problem, but Romanow is unique in proposing a plan that will provide post-secondary education exclusively as a public expense, if only for a year. This puts him directly at odds with wealthier provinces such as Ontario and Quebec, which have reduced their funds for universities despite receiving the lion's share of transfer payments. Ontario has made up for this loss by letting its students accept larger debt loads, while Quebec undergraduates have their tuition frozen at less than \$2 000. Romanow's plan may be popular with students, but it is unlikely that other provincial governments will follow suit. As Jean-Yves Derosi of the Quebec Ministry of Education said, funding for education is not a priority in Quebec: "The economic situation is helping, but education is not being discussed. Maybe in fifty years, who knows?"

### BRAIN IMAGING RESEACH

Researchers in McGill University's Dept. of Psychiatry are looking for healthy, medication-free men (age 18-30: 55-99kg; non-smokers) to participate in a study about the effects of diet and amphetamine on brain activity. The study involves an interview, a medical exam, the injection of protein drinks, administration of the medication d-amphetamine, and brain imaging. Participants will be compensated for their time. The principal investigator is Dr. Leyton.

Please leave a message for Diane Gourdeau at 398-8595.



# Apathetic About Apathy

BY JASON CHOW

As expected, the Shatner building hummed with activity at Activities Night yesterday. New faces were everywhere as crowds filled the cafeteria and ballroom looking for ways to become more involved in student life.

However, this could be said of last year's activity night, and all those before. Complaints about apathy are renewed every year. And yet the faces around Shatner remain the same on all the other days of the year. Add this to perpetually low voter turnout in SSMU and faculty elections, and it would seem that student apathy is a real problem at McGill. But is it really?

For argument's sake, say students here really are apathetic. The sheer size of McGill must play a part in this. With freshman class sizes in the hundreds and a largely impersonal bureaucracy where ID numbers are more important than names, how can we expect students to think that

they are part of a community?

The reality of today's student is different than the one of generations before. With rising tuition costs and mounting student debt many need to work while at school. Between a job and studying, little time is left for any involvement. No longer can a student earn his keep over a summer job. Nor can a student easily delay graduation to devote his/her time to a cause like many did years ago. Such a thought is simply too costly to today's student.

Or is it that Montreal too vibrant of a city? Unlike Queen's or many of the other "spirited" schools set in smaller cities and towns, McGill is in a busy metropolis of three million - with something to cater to everyone's tastes. It isn't the centre of the city. It isn't the only community for students in Montreal like it is in Kingston or Antigonish, NS. How can we expect students to hang around a crumbling concrete mess called the Shatner building

when the whole city awaits them?

Who cares anyway? We're too busy in the rat race, finishing university with the least amount of inconvenience to enter the workforce earlier so we can pay off our debts. But in reflecting on our time here, our memories will be of little more than lecture theaters and library cubicles.

Maybe we're a little too cynical. Activities Night demonstrated that there are those who have created a community within the Roddick Gates. The question is whether there will be enough students next year to pick up the slack.

To combat this apathy problem, the McGill Daily will initiate the Apathy Club. All are invited to join. There are no fees. No meetings will convene. There will be a yearbook picture, but no one will urge you to show up. In fact, all are members already. To remove your name from the member's list, come down to Shatner B-03. We'd like you to work for us.

# How to Make Your Voice Heard

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Hyde Parks, named after the famous London site for soap-box politicians, demagogues, and revolutionaries, is a space devoted to the opinions of our readers. Although they must be less than 500 words long, Hyde Parks provide a great space for opinion and argument. However, unlike letters, the Daily does not guarantee that all Hyde Parks received will be printed. Please leave a copy of your Hyde Park in the Hyde Park box by the office door.

## Comments

Comments are short opinion pieces written by staff members that address any topic under the sun. Unlike editorials, comments are only the opinion of the staff

members that sign them. Editorials are planned during the weekly staff meeting at the Daily and must be passed by a vote to be included in the paper.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor is your space to rant, rave, and generally complain. It is the reader's forum for discussion and debate, either about articles in the Daily or important issues of the times. The Daily guarantees that it will print every letter that it receives, provided that it is under 300 words long and does not contain racist, sexist, or homophobic expressions or ideas. Letters must be signed, although anonymity can be arranged, provided the author speaks to an editor beforehand.

## McGill Daily

Volume 89 Number 1

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ISSN 1192-4648

## McGill Daily Statement of Principles

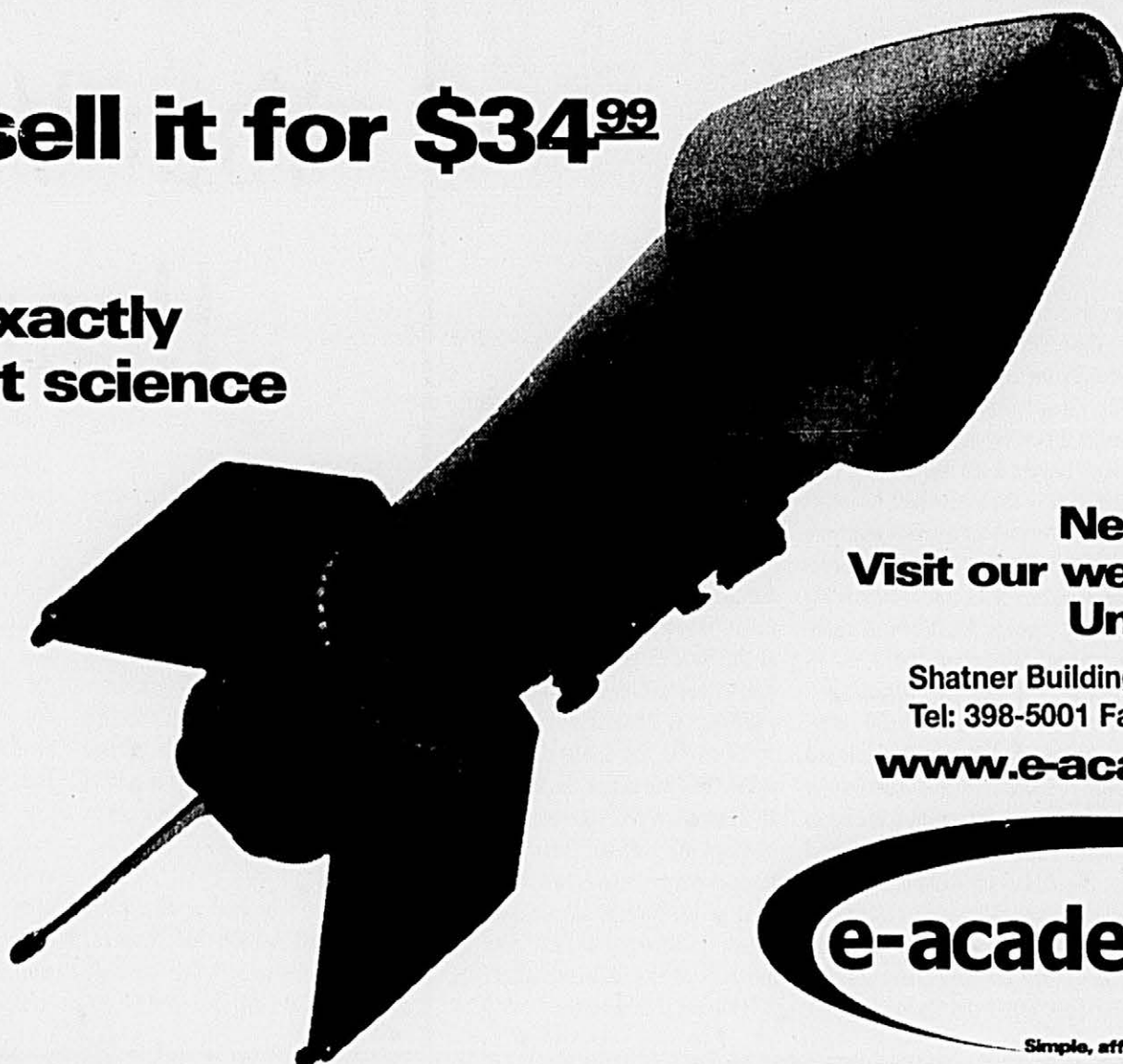
2.1 The fundamental goal of The McGill Daily shall be to serve as a critical and constructive forum for the exchange of ideas and information about McGill University and related communities. 2.2 Within this optic, the staff of the Daily recognizes that all events and issues are inherently political, involving relations of social and economic power. Further, we recognize that at present power is unevenly distributed, especially (but not solely) on the basis of gender, age, social class, race, sexuality, religion, disability and cultural identity. We also recognize that keeping silent about this situation helps to perpetuate inequality. To help correct these inequities, to the best of its staff's abilities, the Daily should depict and analyze power relations accurately in its coverage. 2.3 As an autonomous student newspaper, relatively free from commercial and other controls, the Daily can best serve its purposes by examining issues and events most media ignore. In particular, it should deal with the role post-secondary education plays in constructing and maintaining the current order. It should also assist students and other groups working for change, within a critical framework, with the aim of empowering and giving a voice to individuals and communities marginalized on the basis of the criteria mention in section 2.2. The Daily's methods should be both educative and active, and determined democratically by its staff. 2.4 Finally, we recognize that the Daily must remain accessible to the student community it comes from, and should abide by an ethic of fairness (as defined in the Daily's Code of Ethics) while maintaining its autonomy.



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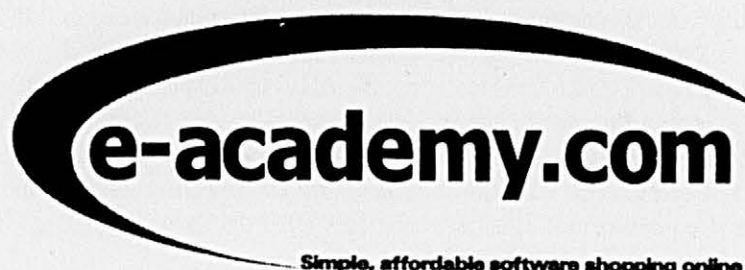
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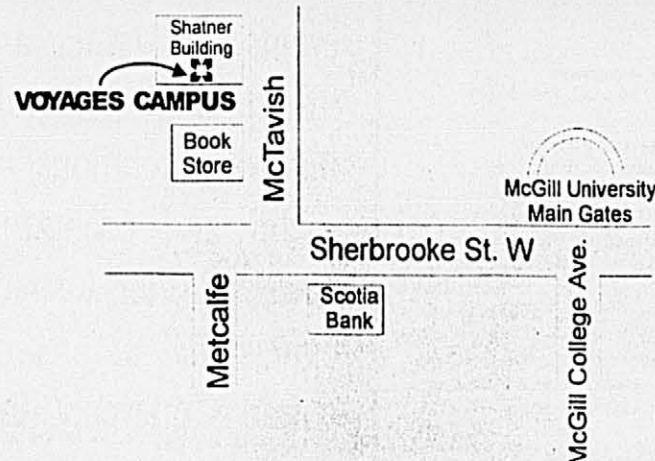


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# The Costs of Being Happy

*Researchers and doctors are beginning to question the long-term effects of psychiatric drugs*

BY JODI LATHAM

The debate surrounding the prescription of psychiatric drugs has grown steadily more heated and the allegations increasingly more alarming. Yet despite the controversy, the number of people taking such prescribed drugs as Prozac, Zoloft, Luvox, Serzone and diet pills Fenfluramine, Fen-Phen and Redux has also increased dramatically. Does this point to growing ranks of those suffering from emotional disorders or is it becoming easier and accepted for individuals to treat these disorders?

In May, at the Prix Galien Canada Awards Gala, Prozac was awarded the Prix Balleau-Nickerson Award for its "social and economic" impact in the treatment of a disease. Dr. David S. Goldbloom, Physician-in-Chief at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, stated that Prozac has led to a growing "acceptance of depressive mood disorders." Essentially, psychiatric drugs have removed the stigma that was traditionally associated with the disorder, making depression and treatment more socially acceptable.

A new book, co-authored by Dr. David Cohen, is making a case against the likes of Prozac. *Your Drug Could Be Your Problem: How and Why to Stop Taking Psychiatric Medications* argues that despite their undeniable growth in popularity, "Psychiatric drugs have long been prescribed to large numbers." Prozac and Zoloft are the last in a whole host of mood-altering drugs including Valium, Librium, amphetamines, barbiturates and even opiates.

The fact is that psychiatric medications have a long and somewhat checkered history, having been relied on for centuries by people to cope with depression, anxiety and stress. What Cohen stresses is that with each of these drugs it was eventually con-

ceded that they "were actually causing more problems than they solved." The question now for the medical and patient communities is, will modern psychiatric drugs follow in the same direction?

Out of the myriad of psychiatric drugs currently on the market, Prozac is the most widely prescribed, taken by over 34 million people in over 100 countries worldwide. Eli Lilly, the pharmaceutical company that discovered Prozac in 1972, points out that it is one of the most "thoroughly studied anti-depressants" in the world.

"The absence of traditional side effects associated with older anti-depressants has made treating depression by medication more tolerable for many patients," said Dr. Goldbloom.

Earlier drugs carried such adverse reactions as blurred vision, constipation, sedation and dietary restrictions - Prozac's poppers don't experience any of these.

But while the short-term effects may be comparatively small, there is little known about the long-term effects of using such mind-altering drugs. Few long-term studies have been conducted, so the results of taking these medications for longer than a few months remains unknown. Federal Drug Administration approval for Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors (SSRI) (such as Prozac, Paxil and Zoloft) was received after clinical trials lasting only 8-12 weeks.

Perhaps the most significant among the concerns that have risen since these drugs' mass marketing began is that many of them are being used to treat disorders they were never intended to, according to J. Rochford, an Associate Professor in McGill's Department of Psychology.

Rochford noted that there is very little evidence that anti-depressants like Prozac actually benefit those who are not depressed. "Considering how little is

known about the long term effects," he said, "people should weigh the costs and benefits before taking them."

Dr. Cohen stressed the fact that "every use of mind or mood altering drugs, including coffee, cigarettes, stimulants, tranquilizers, or marijuana carries a cost." He also pointed out that "no study has ever shown a positive effect from long term use of any psychiatric drug."

The fact that students often suffer from depression, stress, homesickness, and other mood disorders may lead them to consider taking medications to help them cope. Prof. Rochford suggested that students may be tempted to opt for drugs such as Prozac rather than counseling purely for the fact that taking one pill a day less when compared to attending therapy sessions. He also advised that anyone suffering from a mood disorder should speak to a therapist before taking medication, for often all that is needed is "good social support."

Potential takers may also want to consider the fact that some psychiatric drugs have been found to impair memory and concentration, and in some cases, lead to mental disabilities as serious as mania. Cohen notes that taking anti-depressants or stimulants for more than a few weeks can leave you "depressed, irritable, socially withdrawn, impair your concentration," while withdrawal often implies additional complications.

Psychiatric drugs may offer a quick-fix solution Cohen says, yet people need to "consider the relative benefits of taking them without knowing what the long term effects on their health might be," said Dr. Cohen.

"There is no free lunch," said the doctor.

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# The Search for a Cure

Separate factions face-off over life

By TAL PINCHEVSKY



Dr. Robert Sharpe, lamenting on America's three leading causes of death, heart disease, cancer, and stroke, notes how these three severe ailments share at least one commonality. Although difficult or even impossible to cure once established, these three are largely preventable through avoiding smoking and heavy alcohol consumption and a vegetarian diet. It is in this vein that Sharpe stresses the importance of human epidemiological study as a means to discovering this vital avoidance information.

menters funded by the American Heart Association severed the nerves in dogs' hearts, forced chickens to breathe concentrated cigarette smoke, and cut holes in the throats of newborn lambs, sliced their nerves, and obstructed their breathing. These experiments were all undertaken despite the presence of a virtual plethora of information directly linking smoking to cancer. What makes this study even more impractical is the fact that this prior knowledge has come primarily from human data.

mals were killed in order to show how deprived vision alters brain development, long considered scientific fact. The Red Cross conducted numerous experiments involving rabbits having 22 to 30 percent of their blood let from their bodies every two weeks. The Shriners Institute has been directly linked to burn experiments on live mice, rats, guinea pigs, pigs, dogs, and sheep.

One can not help but feel compelled to ask how the better part of the population could idly sit by while testing facilities around the world conduct such experiments, often not far from our homes. An ambitious inner circle has taken this natural inclination to a far greater degree and have risked their careers and even their civil freedom in combating this accepted dominion of medical practice. The Animal Liberation Front, or ALF, much like PAAL have made it a priority, if not civic obligation, to bring light of these experiments to the general public. Other than this priority to educate, such groups undertake severely risky projects that put the 'liberation' in 'animal liberation'.

“This argument is taken just a wee bit too far when it is pointed out that the only modern regime that enacted legislation similar to that of animal rights activists was Nazi Germany.”

This having been said, Sharpe questions the significance of animal testing, otherwise known as vivisection, as legitimate medical practice.

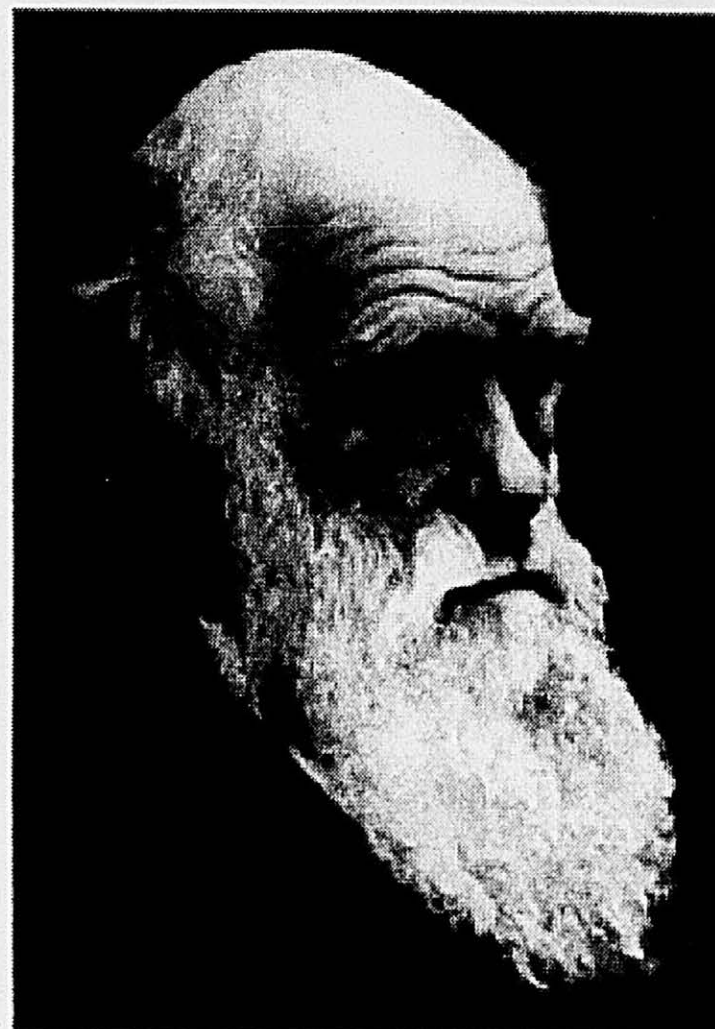
One example of vivisection as pointed out by People Acting for Animal Liberation (PAAL) is a study in the effects of smoking in which experi-

#### TESTING SPONSORS

The sponsorship of such gruesome acts by seemingly lauded if not formidable groups is not restricted entirely to the American Heart Association. According to PAAL, the March of Dimes funded an experiment in which the eyes of newborn kittens were sewn shut for a year before these ani-

#### ANIMAL LIBERATION

According to the ALF Supporters Group, "the ALF carries out direct action against animal abuse in the form of rescuing animals and causing financial loss to animal exploiters, usually through the damage and destruction of property." David Barbarash, a notable ALF representative based out of Vancouver clarifies the historical constants of the group he is affiliated with. Regarding the ALF, Barbarash notes "the things that remain the same are



Darwin: a pro-vivisectionist

that the main goals of the ALF are to aid and liberate animals from places of abuse or to release them to the wild if they are capable of surviving and to cause as much economic damage as possible to the animal abusers."

Regardless of your opinion on this particular issue, one can't help but admire the passion with which Barbarash approaches this obviously important part of his life. After all, both he and his animal liberating peers are implicating themselves in criminal acts. If these acts are not aimed directly at the more powerful and formidable corporate and philanthropic players on the planet, they are at least aimed at what they represent.

The presence of such an awesome opponent has not lost itself on Barbarash. Maintaining full composure, Barbarash states "most of society's problems and the devastation and destruction of the earth and animals is caused by multinational and transnational corporations. Most people that aren't involved in animal issues, like social justice issues, are fighting the same corporations for various reasons."

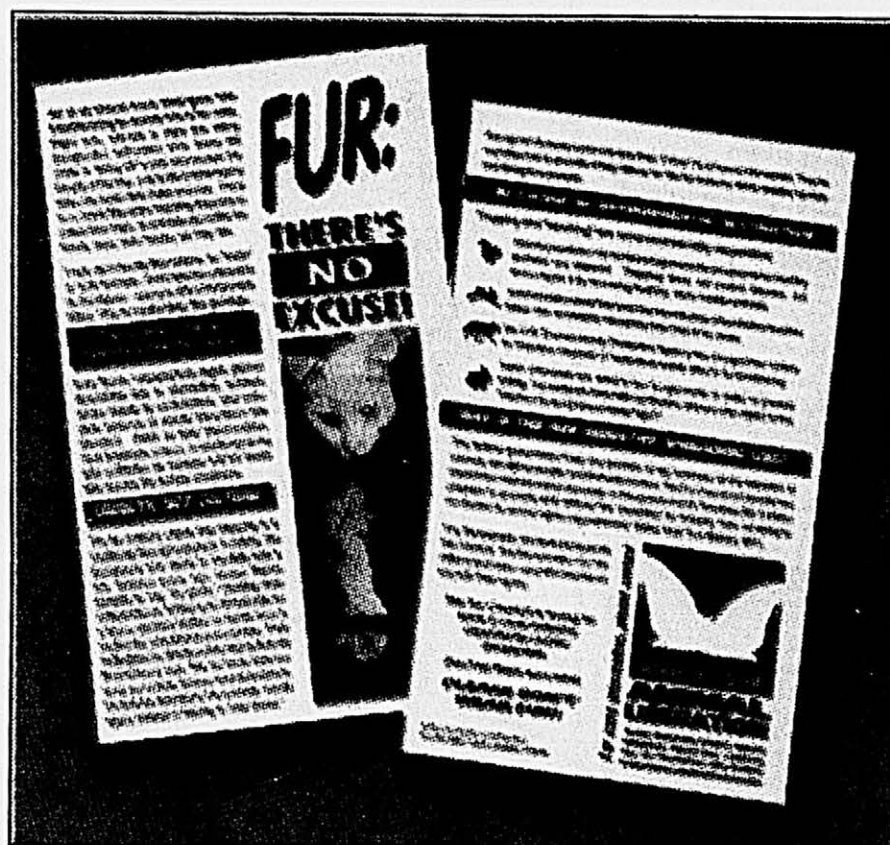
The animal liberation movement vows to achieve its goals through non-violence. Extrapolating on this affirmation, Barbarash notes "the ALF doesn't believe that you can do violence against an inanimate object so burning down a building or destroying vivisection equipment is not a violent activity. It is criminal, but it's not violent."

#### PRO-VIVISECTION

Countering the statements and actions of such groups, researchers provide a list of popular myths regarding animal vivisection. Among the more popular of these myths is that there are no laws protecting animals. In fact the UK passed the Animals Act in 1996 in which it is required, among other things, that animal procedures 1) take place only in laboratories which have appropriate animal accommodations and certified facilities, 2) are part of an approved research program, or 3) are carried out by people with sufficient training, skills, and experience.

These same vivisection representatives make a somewhat tongue-in-cheek statement regarding the so-called "progressive philosophy" of not just animal liberation, but animal rights as a whole. According to these sources, animal rights is in fact a regressive philosophy as it is depriving the seriously ill of medical advances. This argument is taken just a wee bit too far when it is pointed out that the only modern regime that enacted legislation similar to that of animal rights activists was Nazi Germany. This regime defended the legislation saying "the New Germany leads all civilized nations in the area of animal rights."

Attacking the truthfulness of animal rights propaganda, it is claimed that animal rights Groups routinely make fictitious claims in order to win support and money from people without access to other information. PETA's claim that thalidomide successfully passed animal tests is said to be absolutely untrue. The ASA, a







*A senseless victim?*

group regulating the claims of animal rights activists in Britain found, in one instance, that a group known as Plan 2000 produced fund-raising leaflets which were filled with random claims, all of which were found to be untrue.

PETA is particularly lambasted for its views regarding pet ownership. This is founded particularly in a statement by PETA founder Ingrid Newkirk in 1986 in which she said "pet ownership is an abysmal situation brought about by human manipulation."

Other anti-vivisection materials denote a recent British survey in which over 94% of doctors believed that animal experiments have made an important contribution to many advances in medicine. In fact the BMA, or British Medical Association, released a statement saying "the BMA believes that animal experimentation is

necessary at present to develop a better understanding of diseases and how to treat them, but believes that, whenever possible, alternative methods should be used."

Lisa Lange, a PETA representative based out of Virginia supported any and all PETA statements as nothing less than truthful. According to Lange "one of the problems with the vivisection industry is that they make fictitious claims and are responsible for things that they claim we do." Pro-vivisection sources have even the likes of Charles Darwin and Albert Schweitzer as strong supporters of animal research. In "The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin," there is mention of a letter to a Swedish professor of physiology in 1881 that reads "I know that physiology cannot possibly progress except by means of experiments on living animals and I feel the deepest conviction that he who retards

the progress of physiology commits a crime against mankind." While this use of the Socratic method on Darwin's part is somewhat obtuse, it does imply that Charles Darwin and David Barbarash would most likely not be able to calmly play a full game of checkers, or maybe more appropriately Trivial Pursuit, without some sort of mild confrontation. Barbarash and many like him would most likely be up to such a challenge. After all, such activists face a far more ferocious opposition as part of their daunting struggle. Barbarash addresses the inherent risks of his actions head-on in saying "I've taken that risk in the past, I've been charged with commitment of animal liberation and I'm willing to take that risk. As of now I am too much of a public person in terms of being an animal rights activist so the ability for me to be involved in animal liberation activities are reneged because I'm an obvious target and I'm being watched like that."

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY

Within the community of environmental activism, there are differing opinions regarding the actions of groups like the Animal Liberation Front or People Acting for Animal Liberation. Pete Barry of the McGill School of Environment voices certain reservations with such animal liberation groups, noting that their short term interests compromise the long term goals of the entire environmental community. "In terms of breaking into facilities," said Barry, "I don't think it's a very good idea. I think what it does is it reverts the movement overall. I think if someone burns down your house, you would consider it a violent act against you and your family."

Although Lange clearly situates her role as that of a spectator regarding animal liberation she still adamantly voices PETA's views on vivisection. This passion is ever present in Lange's stating "I do understand the frustration that people have with changes (in regulation) coming too slowly. I think that vivisectioners need to be held in fire and when they claim that a cure for cancer or Alzheimer's is right around the corner, they need to be held accountable. As far as I'm concerned, the crimes that are occurring are taking place in the laboratories."



*An everyday laboratory specimen*

### The following editorial was in the Daily on November 14, 1938

The vivisection controversy has again come into the public eye. Recently the Country Gentleman ran a series of articles by Paul deKruif on the part animal experimentation plays in the furthering of medical science, and Life featured in pictorial story showing why vivisection is so essential to medicine and biology.

Here in Canada we may wonder why it is necessary to convince the public in the importance of animal experimentation in medicine for here we have no hampering regulations put through by well-meaning but misguided legislators. We may well be proud of the intelligence of the Canadian public. Our fellow universities in England are not so fortunate in the pursuit of knowledge. In fact they have found it necessary to inaugurate a Research Defence Society to prevent further encroachment on medical science, already burdened by cumbersome restrictions.

In Canada, the anti-vivisection movement has never gained any headway. Our neighbours to the south, however, have lately been in danger of having prohibitive measures passed by certain states. The Hearst papers, notably, have spread propaganda for anti-vivisectionists. This propaganda, in the absence of any opposition from indifferent scientists, who thought that there is no danger of the state passing any regulations prohibiting such an essential feature of modern science as vivisection, has resulted in the growth of this movement to dangerous proportions.

The experiences of English and American scientists can serve as an object lesson to us to watch for the beginnings of any anti-vivisection propaganda in Canada and nip it in the bud before it can grow to inconvenient proportions.

#### THE RESOLUTION WITHIN

Even the most apolitical and socially or politically apathetic among us must admit that we are obliged numerous natural wonders on our

ic red tape. But where do we draw these boundaries as to exceeding our obligations as the dominant species?

The argument is clearly far from one-sided as, regardless of our place on this planet, a greater proportion of

“Most of society's problems and the devastation and destruction of the earth and animals is caused by multinational and transnational corporations.  
—David Barbarash

”

planet. However, this begs the question: do these wonders that have been bestowed upon us necessarily belong to us?

The answer to this question is obviously no, especially in our contemporary society wrought with bureaucrat-

our population embraces more our ecosystem and correlates multinationalals with deception.

Is this an inherent result of the parity, or lack thereof, between father business and Mother Nature? Ask the animals.



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From the Daily Archives, December 1937

## POETRY CORNER

Reading Chinese poetry for the first time, one cannot help but be impressed by its simplicity and striking word pictures. You may recall, even from your recent study of the peoples of China, that they have for thousands of years maintained a level of rationality and tolerance which we of the Western world might well envy. It is not surprising, then, to find mirrored in the reflective philosophy of their verse much of this rationality and tolerance.

The author of the following poem was Wu-Ti, sixth emperor of the Han dynasty. Born in 157 B.C., he came to the throne when he was only 16. After a long reign, he died in 87 B.C., about the time that Julius Caesar was preparing to conquer Europe!

In this poem, Wu-Ti regrets that he is obliged to go on an official journey, leaving his mistress behind in the capital. He is seated in his State barge, surrounded by his ministers. Amidst all the elaborate ceremonies, he reflects on the end of life.

—D. G. N.

### AUTUMN WIND.

Autumn wind arises: white clouds fly.  
Grass and trees wither: geese go south.  
Orchids all in bloom: chrysanthemums smell sweet.

I think of my lovely lady: I never can forget.  
Floating pagoda-boat crosses Fen river.  
Across the mid-stream white sails rise;  
Flute and drum keep time to sound of the rowers' song;  
Amidst revel and feasting, sad thoughts come;  
Youth's years how few! Age how sure!  
—WU-TI (157-87 B.C.)

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# The Beta Band Has the Last Laugh

*The best worst band in the world*

BY MONIQUE STRINGFELLOW

The Beta Band has had a good year. The four wee lads are the latest export from Scotland, which seems to have snuck into public consciousness in every medium in the three years since *Trainspotting* first thrust Scot youth/drug/club- culture into the face of every North- American old enough to see it. Being touted as "the best band in the world" and counting members of the Beastie Boys, Oasis, and many of the more influential voices of the music media among their fans, the Beta Band appears to be the "next big thing" in both indie and quirky- electronic music circles. Don't try to describe them in a word or even a hyphenization though; this is the band that resists classification.

Their music ranges from Gregorian- like chanting on "It's Not Too Beautiful" to old- skool hip- hop on the band's theme song to a "Total Eclipse of the Heart" cover that manages to turn the cheesy hit into a feedback- and percussion- laden blues song. They deconstruct and reconstruct and distort, making music out of nothing and nothing out of music. This is their magic. That they are indeed the best band in the world I am doubtful of; I can however say with conviction that they are apropos of our time. Their songs are testaments to the evolution of our music. Call them simplistic or unsophisticated and I have one comment in their defense: have you listened to the radio recently? The problem with the Beta Band is that you wonder if you are maybe giving them more credit than they deserve; musical prophets for the millenium, sure, it's pos-

sible, but they could just as easily be the gawky New- Balance- wearing boys that were sitting next to you in *The Alley* today; the only difference being that they somehow managed to get their hands on a synthesizer.

The band's first full- length album was released this year on the current "it-label" Astralwerks, where they now hold court with the royalty of electronic music, a group that includes well- established acts such as The Chemical Brothers and Air, as well as the recently arrived but much anticipated Basement Jaxx. If the Chemical Brothers are currently the

The Beta Band's similarities to the master of musical collage do not end here. Some of their songs could in fact be mistaken for Beck; it's the pastiche styling that somehow against all odds, works, and the sneaking suspicion that beneath their shaggy bespectacled white- boy exterior there's a soul- brother whose wail cannot be extinguished.

They are lackadaisical, banging on bcnegos and what appear to be cowbells in a way that makes you wonder if their critical success isn't the latest version of "The Emperor's New Clothes." Are their lyrics post- ironic or just silly? It is indeed

a fine line, but while the po-mo confections created by Pavement or Beck generally fall safely on the ingenious side, the Beta Band opens up the great debate of this century, "what is art anyway?" It is daring music in the sense that it dares to be bad. At worst, their music is trite drivel,

“The whole point about this band is that we're in it to have fun. We pick up the nearest available instrument and start banging it. We're not interested in becoming pop stars. We're just into the art of sounds.”

”

kings of this scene, seated atop a throne of international hits and a number- one selling record, the Betas are running amok somewhere in the castle walls, wearing pointy shoes and turning cartwheels. They are the jesters of the new musical talent.

They acknowledge that they may well be "the worst band in the world," and you get the sense that they may even mean it. They possess the unaffected cool/unabashed dorkiness of the Loser- era Beck, before he cultivated his current Al Green/cowboy/talk- show- host persona.

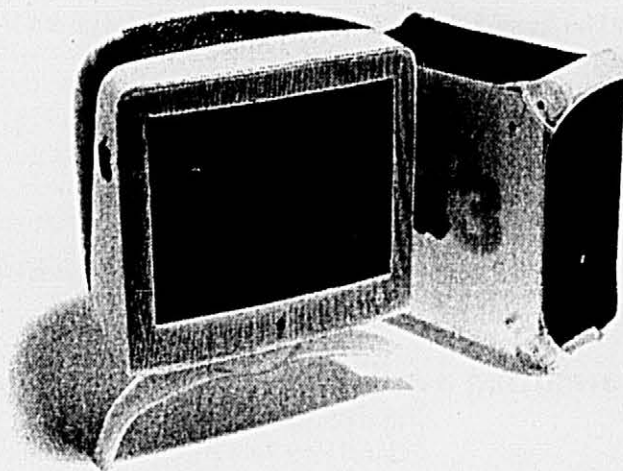
an art- school project that should never have gone beyond a spirited conversation, the result of one too many pints; at best they are the aural equivalent of Warhol's Campbell's soup can, the appeal being delightfully obvious and sublimely elusive. So, go ahead, say they're crap, but remember: they'd be the first to agree. They never said they were any good, "people who know" just seem to think they are.

For more information on the band visit [www.beta-band.freemove.co.uk/](http://www.beta-band.freemove.co.uk/)



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Friday, September 10th 1999 at 1:00 p.m.  
Monday, September 13th 1999 at 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 14th 1999 at 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, September 15th 1999 at 1:00 p.m.  
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SINCE 1911



# Open Your Eyes

*A Smart Film But Not An Eye Opening Experience*

*Spanish Thriller is a little too well-packaged*

By TYSON NEIL

Open Your Eyes is a slick, beautifully shot sci-fi thriller where the lines between fantasy and reality are all but obliterated. The film is well acted and for the most part, well written. It raises some very disturbing issues about the perils of technology, mortality, madness, sexuality and narcissism. Writer/director Alejandro Amenábar explores these themes with great insight

and in considerable depth.

Amenábar delivers his powerful messages in the form of a dark, complex psychological thriller where one quickly loses sight of what is fact and what is fiction. The fact that there is no homogeneous reality experienced objectively by everyone forces the viewer to feel uncomfortable. The audience is continually inculcated with the

movie's primary theme of reality being a function of one's perception - that the world is a construction of one's psyche.

Open Your Eyes is the story of César (Eduardo Noriega), a wealthy young man who fancies himself to be a modern-day Casanova. On the surface, it would appear that he has everything: money, good looks and the ability to attract any woman he desires. In short, life treated him kindly.

Then came the fateful night of his twenty-fifth birthday. César meets Sofia (Penelope Cruz), a beautiful young actress to whom he feels an immediate connection. It is not long before she ditches her party-date, César's best friend Pelayo, and the two spend a meaningful night together, falling in love. He is convinced that Sofia is the one for him.

Then next morning, César leaves her apartment and is immediately confronted by his ex-lover Nuria (Najwa Nimri), who is waiting for him outside in her car. She wants to rekindle the relationship and offers César a ride home. This is where César's downward spiral begins - quite literally. After a heated conversation, Nuria loses control and drives her car off the

road, down a steep incline.

Nuria is apparently killed and César awakens to find himself in the psychiatric ward of a prison charged with murder. To make matters worse, his face has been seriously disfigured. It is unclear what César finds more distressing - the loss of his freedom or the loss of his good looks. Essentially, this is where the film truly begins.

César quickly descends into a world of paranoia and confusion. Amenábar never really gives the audience an opportunity to figure out what life César is living and what life he is simply imagining. Throughout the feature, César is continually teased by the lovely Sofia and taunted by the devilish Nuria, whom he thinks died in the car wreck. As if he is suffering from some type of bipolar disorder, César experiences many highs and lows in his struggle to regain himself. Amenábar succeeds in creating a labyrinth plot, which seems impossible for both César and the viewer to escape.

In terms of raising serious questions about our world and our reality, Open Your Eyes works well; where it does not satisfy is in the way it answers these existentialist

questions. The simplistic ending does not mesh well with the film's overall complex nature. Its explanation of why César is going through this nightmarish journey, where he wavers between heaven and hell, is somewhat disappointing. While Amenábar probably intends to raise more issues that the film is able to answer, I think the opposite is true; César's predicament is explained far too easily in the film's contrived ending. It is as if Amenábar needed some logical explanation to justify all the hardships the protagonist was forced to endure.

Because Open Your Eyes brings up so many complex and interesting points, it is obvious that no one particular ending will do any of these issues justice. There are no simple solutions or answers to any of Amenábar's themes, and trying to force them into a neat and tidy package devalues what the movie sets out to accomplish in the first place.

In the end, Open Your Eyes is an interesting and intriguing piece of film but it tries to do too much with its existentialist themes.

# Is There An "I" In Nation?

*The Personal Visions of Canadian Filmmakers at The 1999 Toronto International Film Festival*

By IRA NAYMAN

When you see a lot of films in a short span of time, as happens at film festivals, there is a temptation to come up with glib assessments of the state of Canadian Cinema. For trends to appear in a national cinema, there has to be a set of shared cultural assumptions on the part of all of the filmmakers. This is not true of Canada, a country which seems to be held together by binder twine and a vague (and increasingly more vague) notion that we're not Americans. With little knowledge of our country's history and few values in common, Canadian filmmakers tend to fall back on their own personal visions, more often fed by streams of American popular culture than their own country's culture. (An example of this is John Paiz's Top of the Food Chain, a parody of 1950s American B science fiction films.) If there is a thread in Canadian films, it is more economic than cultural: there isn't as much money to make films here than there is in the United States. Different filmmakers take different approaches to this fundamental limitation.

Kal Ng's science fiction story, Dreamtrips for instance, avoids expensive special effects. The story is of a woman whose fiancé disappears a month before their wedding, who uses computer-induced dream technology to help her sleep. The film uses simple computer animation effects to support what is an inner journey. Ng's eye for beautiful images enhances the

otherworldliness of the story (although it also has the unfortunate effect of pushing the human story he's trying to tell to the periphery of the film).

Ng's approach to science fiction (emphasizing concept over effects) is not new to Canadian films: Vincenzo Nattali's Cube (which screened at the Festival two years ago) tried to create its own fully realized futuristic world within a small budget. We shouldn't consider this a Canadian trend, however (see how easily trend analysis creeps into an article?); this method of creating a work of science fiction can be seen in films as diverse as Tarkovsky's Stalker and the various versions of Invasion of the Body Snatchers.

A different way of making low budget films was adopted by Carl Bessai. A note at the end of Johnny, his film about a half dozen street kids led by a charismatic but emotionally unstable squeegee kid, says that the film adheres to the Dogma 95 manifesto promoted by Dutch filmmakers Lars von Trier (The Kingdom) and Tomas Vinterberg (The Celebration). Those filmmakers, disgusted by the manipulateness of traditional film techniques, argued, among other things, that true films should be shot using available lighting, should not employ non-diegetic music, and so on.

Watching Johnny, one can't help but think that the rawness the Dutch filmmakers have chosen as an aesthetic is a necessity for most first-time filmmakers with low

budgets. However, most first-time filmmakers don't have the same off-centre stories to tell; Johnny comes across as a much less threatening version of Larry Clark's Kids.

While economics puts constraints on aesthetics, it does not define a national aesthetic. In Canada, our filmmakers seem, for the most part, to be following their own aesthetic trajectories: Atom Egoyan's Felicia's Journey, which opens the Festival, continues the more humane exploration of the extremes of human emotion which he first portrayed in The Sweet Hereafter; Ransen's Touched is a study of eccentric characters not dissimilar to his previous film, Margaret's Museum (although much less engaging); Lea Pool's Emporte-Moi, like all of her films, is a sensitive, low-key, character-driven story, this time about a young girl trying to come to terms with a difficult home life and her budding lesbian feelings; and so on.

Canada may not be unique in this regard. Creativity is ultimately an individual act, after all, and finding commonalities in the films of any nation with a reasonably large number of film productions may be futile, journalists will try though.

The Toronto International Film Festival opens today and continues until September 18th.



## The Herbaliser Is Coming To Town

The laid-back cinematic beats of London's The Herbaliser lay open the Spectrum this Friday. A trip-hop thinktank of bass player Jake Wherry and DJ Ollie Teeba, The Herbaliser blends funk, hip-hop, and jazz with 40's style detective sound. The mood is dark, but the good guys always win. Touring their new album Very Mercenary, Herbaliser is in full force with a nine-piece band and British rapper Roots Manuva and Jah Cutta. Sampling everything from Spiderman cartoons to audio feed from the moon-landing, Very Mercenary is a stellar follow-up to their slick 1997 release Blow Your Headphones. Mercenary features the same solid-groove bass and murky soundscapes in a more relaxed feel. Jake and Ollie normally tour with only vinyl for company. This is North America's first chance to see them fully backed-up, so catch them while you can. They play their final Canadian gig in Quebec City next week. Both albums and their debut release and plenty of remixes are available on the Ninja Tune label. The Herbaliser plays at the Spectrum. Tickets are \$17.50, \$22.50 (plus service charges) showtime is 9:30.

-ALEX AYLETT





# Reaching Beyond the Mainstream

## Undermining corporate culture with Atitlan Industries

BY Yael Friedman and Christine Stecura

Atitlan Industries began as a performance in the rave community that grew to comprise a national record label as well as forging paths within the literary community, publishing plays and a collection of poetry.

Grant Bosnick is the creator of Atitlan Industries, and his goals are made manifest in his work. They are rooted in communication among peoples and communities spread across a broad spectrum of views and opinions. Through this, he hopes to undermine what he perceives to be a monopoly of western corporatism on art across the world. Bosnick plans to promote art that is less conventional and may therefore have difficulty reaching an audience.

Last Sunday evening, an hour before his Montreal performance at Foufounes Electriques, the Daily had a chance to speak with Grant Bosnick.

**Daily:** What is Atitlan Industries?

**G.B.:** I like to think of it as a birth metaphor, an organic life form. It was like a twelve-month pregnancy leading up to its publication.

**Daily:** Where did Atitlan industries debut publicly and what form did it take?

**G.B.:** It began at a rave in Toronto where I organized a drum circle set up adjacent to the main space. It could not compete with the DJs in the main room at the rave. So we played along acoustically with the artificial beats they produced.

**Daily:** Tell us about your plan to bring together different communities

**G.B.:** I spent eight months in Tokyo teaching business English. There I got involved with different artists in various media. I was part of organizing a large multimedia rave spectacle there that attracted 1400 people. There were ten live bands, a fashion show, four DJs - all of who were British, three dance shows - composed of Japanese dancers, as well as a group of Japanese musicians. I headlined the shows and helped to coordinate it.

Through this I was able to bring together the foreign community and Japanese community and showcase non-mainstream talent from various parts of the world.

**Daily:** Tell us about your connection to Tokyo

**G.B.:** I find Tokyo inspiring. There are lots

of opportunities...people are always looking for anything that is new. There is great potential to attract an audience. As well there is a large foreign community to appeal to and to integrate into the Japanese culture.

**Daily:** Who are the various artists set to perform this evening?

**G.B.:** Last of Ride, a Japanese band, were detained in Ottawa which I am really upset about. Yen Calling is the renowned Japanese artist Yutaka Fukuoka, who can do some pretty amazing things with his voice. After a short break, Ariel, who remind me of The Cure, and Synaesthetic. The last two are Canadian bands. Also there will be a multimedia show. Unfortunately the structure created by the architects fell off their car coming from Ottawa and was run over by passing cars.

**Daily:** How did the other shows in Toronto and Ottawa fare?

**G.B.:** Ottawa was much more receptive than Toronto. During that performance, we had Inuit women from Nunavut, and Northern Quebec sing with us. Also, a man originally from Pakistan sang in Urdu. Our show in Toronto was in Lee's Palace. The venue was not really suited for our purposes.

**Daily:** Are you excited about your show tonight in Montreal?

**G.B.:** I find people in Montreal to be very friendly and receptive to my work and me even though I don't speak French. I would like to eventually return to Canada from

Japan and live here in Montreal.

**Daily:** What are your future plans for Atitlan Industries?

**G.B.:** In about two years I want to have a big show in Tokyo. It takes about that long to plan and make the connections for a show that size.

After that I hope to do what I have been

vocals and various other sounds he has acquired around the world including, the Pacific Ocean, Montreal traffic and the Tokyo subway.

Mesmerizing his audience with his ethereal melodic cries Yen surprised everyone by returning the attention to the audience by taking pictures of them with his disposable camera.



Photo by Christine Stecura

doing in Tokyo, in Milan - infusing the Italian underground scene into my work.

Bosnick opened the show with a spoken word rant that expressed his anger to the authorities that refused his friends entry at the border. Along with an accompanying guitarist and many visual aids, he proceeded to tell his story through poetry and music. The fusion of the various media made his anti-corporate message more accessible and fun to watch and listen.

Yet it was Yen Calling who really stole the show. Using a voice synthesizer to record and morph his voice, he mixes raw

The show at Foufounes was successful in introducing new artists such as Yen Calling, Ariel, and Synaesthetic to audiences that may never have had the chance to see them otherwise.

Unfortunately, the show failed to attract many spectators, as it lacked the mainstream appeal that attracts larger crowds. For Grant Bosnick, Atitlan Industries has become a means through which artists, who may not have an avenue open to them, can showcase their work. He also is idealistic enough to hope that one day soon an audience will be ready to listen.

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Sent to the editor of the Daily  
By a delegation of professors.  
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In the past, that several items of humor  
Have received publication within the pages  
Of your most estimable paper. We suggest  
That these items be increased in number,  
Be made more subtle, and be printed  
In the upper right hand corner of Page One,  
So that our students may read them  
In lectures without annoying us with  
Cautious surreptitious folding of paper.  
Trusting that this will meet with your  
Approval, etc... May it be remarked that  
We heartily second this suggestion.  
Then we won't miss a juicy one  
Hidden away somewhere on Page Four.  
—L. S. YON YEN

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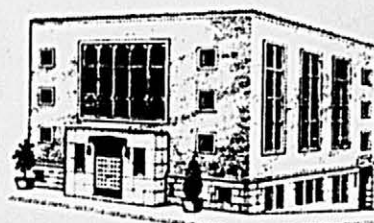
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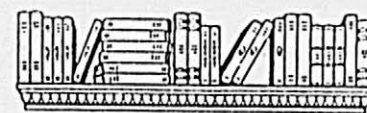


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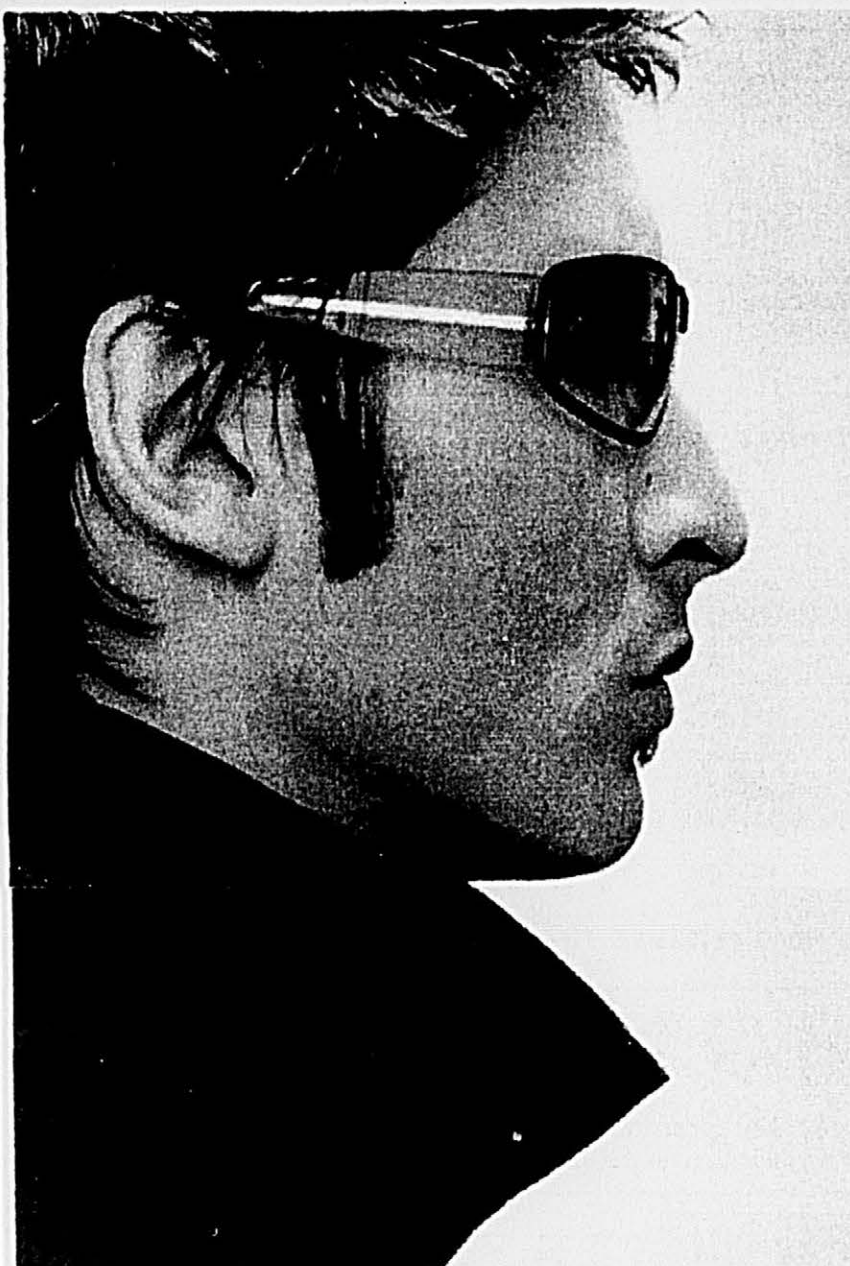
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